

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-42 are currently pending, Claims 1, 12, 23, 30, and 41 having been amended, and Claim 43 having been canceled. The changes and additions to the claims do not add new matter and are supported by the originally filed specification, for example, on Figs. 3 and 11-13; page 24, lines 10-13.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Araki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,014,696, hereafter “Araki”) in view of Te et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,785,864, hereafter “Te”).

Applicants thank the examiner and his supervisor for the courtesy of an interview with Applicants’ representative, Mr. Sameer Gokhale, on March 3, 2010. During the interview, Mr. Gokhale explained the Applicants’ invention to the examiner. Furthermore, proposed clarifying amendments were discussed to distinguish the claims over the applied art. The examiner indicated that the proposed amendments appear to overcome the existing rejection, but further consideration and/or search may be necessary. Claim amendments and arguments similar to those discussed during the interview are presented herewith for formal consideration.

With respect to the rejection to Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection in part and submit that the present clarifying amendment overcomes this ground of rejection. Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

transmitting, from the terminal unit, a first request signal to a page data providing apparatus for requesting first page data, the page data providing apparatus performing user authentication to allow the terminal unit access to a content server which is separate from the page data providing apparatus, and the first page data being provided by the page data providing apparatus to allow the

user of the terminal unit to input a request to receive second page data from the content server;

receiving and automatically displaying without a user's request, at the terminal unit, notification page data from the page data providing apparatus prior to receiving the first page data when the page data providing apparatus determines that the notification page data is stored on a predetermined memory location on the page data providing apparatus, the notification page data providing predetermined notification information related to a status of the page data providing apparatus and provides an option for the user to input a request to continue to receive the first page data; and

receiving, at the terminal unit, the first page data from the page data providing apparatus without receiving notification page data when the page data providing apparatus determines that notification page data is not stored in the predetermined memory location on the page data providing apparatus.

Applicants submit that the combination of Araki and Te fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claim 1.

As previously presented, Araki is directed to a method of restricting a client to refer to data of a web server by using a web browser. Fig. 1 of Araki shows a client-server system including a client 1, network 2, and server 3. Fig. 2 shows a processing sequence between the client 1 and the server 3. First, the client acquires a page descriptive file 6 from the server 3 (S1 and S2). The page descriptive file has a confirmation button for which the user of the client can confirm that he or she will receive a service for obtaining pages under a reference restriction (see col. 6, lines 15-22). The server then sends a character sequence (password, random number, etc.) to the client (see col. 6, lines 26-38 and Fig. 2, S5). The client can then send a page-acquirement request using the password to the server (see Fig. 2, S6). The server confirms the password and sends the first page to the client, which was rewritten to refer to symbolic links 20 (see col. 6, lines 56-60, and Fig. 2, S8). The symbolic links 20 indicate substantial contents of a page descriptive file and a relevant data file 7.

The Office Action acknowledges that Araki fails to disclose or suggest all of “receiving, at the terminal unit, notification page data from the page data providing apparatus prior to receiving the first page data when the page data providing apparatus determines that the notification page data is stored on a predetermined memory location on the page data providing apparatus, the notification page data providing predetermined notification information related to the first page data,” as defined in Claim 1.

The Office Action relies on Te to remedy the deficiencies of Araki with regard to Claim 1.

As previously presented, Te is directed to a system of notifying changes in web page hyperlinked documents. Fig. 1 shows a server 110 having the system 100, which includes a subscription program 12, a notify reports program 150, a notify program 140 and a canvasser program 130. Fig. 13 illustrates that a user using a web browser requests notification of any changes to a hyperlinked document 116 by selecting notification icon 146 which is located on every web page 114 (see col. 7, lines 1-4). When the user selects the notification icon 146, subscription program 120 is invoked at server 110 and gets a copy of the current web page 114, and converts and returns a notification page 118 which has a list of hypertext links with checkboxes next to them (see col. 7, lines 5-9). The user selects certain hypertext links for which it wants to be notified of any changes to the document corresponding to the link (see col. 7, lines 10-14 and lines 52-67). The canvasser program is used to check if any of the hyperlinked document have changed (see col. 8, lines 35-52). The notify program 140 runs after the canvasser program and produces a notify memo indicating the hyperlinked documents for which the user has subscribed to which have changed (see col. 9, lines 28-38). The notify reports program 150 is a program which generates reports for the user for various functions, such as allowing a user to see what hyperlinked documents it on notification for (see col. 9, lines 46-55).

The Office Action takes the position that Te discloses “receiving, at the terminal unit, notification page data from the page data providing apparatus prior to receiving the first page data when the page data providing apparatus determines that the notification page data is stored on a predetermined memory location on the page data providing apparatus, the notification page data providing predetermined notification information related to the first page data” based on Te’s description of the notify reports program 150 (see Office Action, at page 3).

Also, in response to the Applicants’ previous arguments that Te does not explicitly check for the existence of the notification report at a predetermined memory location and then provide that same notification report to the user ahead of another document that the user requested, the examiner contends the following on page 11.

When a user subscribes for notification, a notification page is sent prior to sending first page data. The notification page is inherently stored in a predetermined memory location.

For example, when a user had previously submitted a request for notification (see Fig. 14) by checking the check boxes, a notification page data (Fig. 15) will be sent to the subscriber prior to sending first page data.

However, as discussed during the interview, Fig. 15 of Te merely shows *an e-mail* which is sent to a user to notify the user of changes made to subscribed websites (see also col. 9, lines 43-45). This is not a notification page sent to a user prior to sending a webpage which the user actually requested.

Additionally, amended Claim 1 clarifies “receiving *and automatically displaying without a user’s request*, at the terminal unit, notification page data from the page data providing apparatus prior to receiving the first page data when the page data providing apparatus determines that the notification page data is stored on a predetermined memory location on the page data providing apparatus.” Applicants note that Te describes that a user

explicitly requests to receive the e-mail notification report showing changes to the website (see col. 9, lines 48-63). Therefore the receipt of an e-mail showing the updated websites cannot be interpreted as notification page data being received and displayed without a user's request prior to displaying the webpage which the user actually requested.

Furthermore, the Office Action states that the phrase "notification page data" is a very broad term (see Office Action, at page 11). However, amended Claim 1 clarifies that "the notification page data providing predetermined notification information related to a status of the page data providing apparatus and provides an option for the user to input a request to continue to receive the first page data."

Furthermore, amended Claim 1 recites "transmitting, from the terminal unit, a first request signal to a page data providing apparatus for requesting first page data, the page data providing apparatus performing user authentication to allow the terminal unit access to a content server which is separate from the page data providing apparatus, and the first page data being provided by the page data providing apparatus to allow the user of the terminal unit to input a request to receive second page data from the content server."

Thus, as discussed during the interview, amended Claim 1 clarifies that the page data providing apparatus, which provides the notification page data from a predetermined memory location and the first page data, is separate from a content server which provides second page data that is accessed via a request made through the first page data. Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Araki and Te fail to disclose or suggest a similar relationship of a terminal unit, a page data providing apparatus, and a content server.

Applicants also submit that using a page data providing apparatus, which is separate from a content server, to provide "notification page data" as specifically defined in Claim 1 is not inherent in systems in which a user receives a notification that a "server is down," a "server is busy," or a "website is under construction" as asserted on page 11 of the Office

Action. In other words, Claim 1 defines a specific method of providing notification page data to a terminal unit, and Applicants submit that this specific method is not inherent in the general notion of a user receiving a notice of a server of website being down or under maintenance.

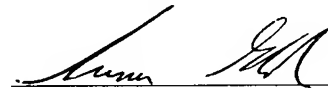
Therefore, for all the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguishes over Araki and Te, either alone or in proper combination.

Amended independent Claims 12, 23, 30, and 41 recite features similar to those of amended Claim 1 discussed above. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 12, 23, 30, and 41 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguish over Araki and Te, either alone or in proper combination.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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